Extracts from "THE STORY OF AN ALCOHOL SLAVE"—reprinted from August number of McClure's Magazine by permission S. S. McClure Company. Arranged by Mrs. Zillah Foster Stevens.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The Story of an Alcohol Slave

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The Story of an Alcohol Slave

As Told by Himself

(What the Example of the confident, complacent, respectable Moderate Drinker is and does in decoying new recruits into the ranks of Alcohol Slaves; what the Saloon is and does in making that slavery hopeless; these two points stand out with startling clearness in this "Story of an Alcohol Slave." Teachers of classes of boys and young men will do well to distribute these leaflets.—Ed.)

At fourteen years of age I developed a love of statistics, accounts, and bookkeeping. Since I was fifteen, I have kept an accurate account of my expenditures in saloons, covering a period from January 1, 1878, to April 27, 1908. The total debit balance of my personal "saloon account" for thirty years is $17,364.60. This amount covers alcoholic beverages, mixed or straight, purchased by me in saloons, drug stores, blind pigs, bars, buffets, cafes, restaurants, hotels, dining-cars, steamers and theatres. It also covers slight losses at playing saloon slot-machines; losses at dice-shaking in saloons for drinks; losses at card-playing in saloons for drinks; one gun hold-up in a saloon; three gun hold-ups in saloon districts; and two chloral-hydrate robberies at saloon bars. Therefore, my average daily saloon expense was $1.57 for every calendar day of thirty-year period named.

I believe the so-called "best" people of our saloon-licensing States are not aware of the fact that drinkers and drunkards are *originally* made by illegal liquor-selling to minors. I know the perpetuation of the saloon business is based on minors forming the habit of liquor-drinking at the earliest possible age. I know that certain saloonkeepers and bartenders sell intoxicating liquors over their bars to minors at the earliest moment they can do so without risking legal prosecution.

My experience and observation for a period of twenty-nine years in the United States leads me to believe that saloon drinkers over forty years of age are five per cent of the total number; that drinkers between thirty and forty years of age are ten per cent of the total number; that drinkers between twenty-one and thirty years of age are thirty-five per cent of the total number; and that *fifty per cent of the total number of drinkers in saloons are minors.*

Learning Saloon Life as a Newsboy.

At nine years of age I lived in a middle Western city that licensed one hundred and eight saloons. Outside of school hours I sold daily papers in the business district. At first I felt a horror of saloons, pity and fear for drunkards, due to home and church teaching. Darting in and out of saloons selling papers, I began to feel a curiosity as to what peculiar quality lurked in the liquids consumed by saloon customers. It was fun for me to loiter a minute and watch saloon life. Pool fascinated me, and I longed for the time to come when I should be big enough to play.

My First Glass of Beer

At fourteen years of age I drank my first glass of beer in a saloon in the most natural way. Seeing me hot and perspiring one summer afternoon, a saloonkeeper offered me a glass of bottled beer, saying, "You're big enough to drink beer now." I then comprehended that my school, home, and church teaching of the evils of drinking were inconsistent with licensed liquor saloons. I figured that it was all right for me to drink a glass of beer, if I drank like a gentleman, as I saw sober and sedate business men doing. I was big, physically, and saloonkeepers and bartenders would grin amiably at my beer drinking, as I came around to their business places on my paper route.

In my sixteenth year I entered a corporation office as an office boy. The back doors of this office and those of a big saloon were only a few feet apart, and certain officers and clerks, including myself, drank in the saloon while on duty.

At this time I came to the conclusion that becoming a drunkard lay entirely with the individual, and that there was no chance of ultimate personal harm in my taking a drink of ale or beer. I knew that no one could make me drink unless I wanted to drink.

I was cocksure of my strength of muscle and mind. I became a pool and billiard player, and enjoyed evening saloon life as a patron.

There was always a delightful uncertainty as to whether it would be fight or frolic from one moment to another in a crowded bar-room. In my seventeenth year I began railroading, and in a few years drew a man's salary every month from the pay car. During the next three years I was a favorite customer with saloonkeepers and bartenders. I bought freely, shook dice for drinks, played cards, pool, and billiards for drinks.

I Influence Twenty of my Friends to Drink.

My high school and gymnasium friends, now working for a living like myself, became drinkers with me. At this time I influenced directly twenty young men, my contemporary associates, in beginning saloon drinking. The saloons were open, and all we had to do was to go in and be welcomed.

I was good-natured, never quarreled or talked loudly, was apparently never influenced by alcoholic drink, was always well-dressed, well-groomed, and well-mannered. I was healthy and athletic, earned good wages, and spent as much in saloons as I saw fit. The local retail liquor-dealer smiled and flattered me. Life was joyous for me and my friends. We laughed about virtually supporting three different saloons by our patronage. We were minors. "No minors allowed" signs stared impotently in our faces in every saloon. I was never questioned during my minority by saloonkeeper or bartender as to my legal right to drink intoxicating liquors. I was made welcome in saloons. My patronage was profitable to them.

I became a Daily Moderate Drinker.

At twenty years of age I believed myself innately incapable of getting drunk through ordinary drinking, and was very proud that I was so constituted. Saloonkeepers and bartenders complimented me because I could

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drink without showing the ordinary effects of indulgence in intoxicating liquors. Occasionally I felt exhilarated, while drinking, but, having an established reputation for cool-headedness, I managed not to show it.

In my twenty-first year a trip to Europe resulted in my becoming an habitual daily moderate drinker. On my return home I noticed that my former intimate friends and associates drank more heavily than I remembered. I was introduced to a younger set of saloon drinkers that had come on during my year's absence. My example of drinking helped this younger set to continue drinking just as the example of drinking business men upheld me in my own drinking habits.

During the next five years I was on the payroll of a large railway company, and traveled in a position of trust, honor, and responsibility, in eight States of the middle West. My evening diversions were pool, billiards, and card-playing in saloons, with a moderate amount of drinking. I saw thousands of boys, from seventeen to twenty years of age, drinking in saloons during this period. I saw but one minor refused alcoholic drink in this five-year period. At the end of five years I was promoted to an official position in Chicago.

I Lose a Job through my First Case of Drunkenness.

After several months in a Chicago business district, two of my business colleagues warned me that in drinking I was setting a bad example to employes.

I had never tried to stop drinking from the time I began, for I knew I could stop any time I desired. I now made the attempt to stop drinking entirely, purely as a business measure. I was successful in not drinking for a week, then naturally gravitated into evening saloon life with drink-mates again. In a few months a downtown drunken affair with a party of friends from the country brought me into some publicity; and I was "let out" for public drunkenness. I was more disheartened at finding conclusively that my boasted moderate drinking for twelve years had made me a drunkard than I was at losing my reputation in the railway world, and my salary of two hundred dollars a month.

During the following year I developed a certain grade of intoxication. I would temporarily forget that I was working for a living and stick around saloons until I drank myself sober. I usually lost my jobs from not being on duty, rather than from incompetency while on duty.

Five of my Friends Become Alcohol Slaves.

In 1890 Robert Giddings, one of the friends of my minor drinking days, one of the twenty young men influenced by my drinking habits to join me in drinking, shot himself at a saloon bar. He was a successful business man of fine character and ability. Bob began drinking at seventeen years of age; he lasted ten years in saloons.

In 1893 William Jaques, one of the friends of my minor drinking days, one of the twenty young men influenced by my drinking habits to join me in drinking, cut his throat at a saloon bar. He was a successful business man of fine character and ability. Billy began drinking at sixteen years of age, and lasted thirteen years in saloons.

In 1895 Cornelius Matthews, one of the friends of my minor drinking days, one of the twenty young men influenced by my drinking habits to join me in drinking, was burned to death in a hotel fire. The night clerk, knowing that I was a personal friend of the dead man, told me whisperingly that Con had been carried to his room from the bar-room at midnight, a couple of hours before the fire. Con began drinking at sixteen years of age, and lasted fifteen years in saloons.

In 1897 Daniel Hobbs, one of the friends of my minor drinking days, one of the twenty young men influenced by my drinking habits to join me in drinking, killed himself by morphine-poisoning in a saloon wine-room. Dan was the most successful business man of the old bunch—successful in every way but one. Dan began drinking at eighteen years of age, and lasted seventeen years in saloons.

In 1905 Samuel Edwards, one of the friends of my minor drinking days, one of the twenty young men influenced by my drinking habits to join me in drinking, killed himself by falling, fracturing his skull, while very drunk in a saloon. Sam began drinking at seventeen years of age, and lasted twenty-seven years in saloons.

In 1909 the twenty young men of whom I have spoken were distributed as follows:

Married under twenty-five years of age; paternity and family duties first checked, then stopped alcoholic liquor drinking	9
Suicides in saloons while drinking (bachelors)	3
Burned to death while incapacitated by drink (bachelor)	1
Accidentally fell while in saloon very drunk, and killed by fall (bachelor)	1
Supposed accident by leaky gas-jet; no reason for suicide other than tired of drinking (bachelor)	1
Died from tuberculosis of lungs at twenty-seven years of age (bachelor)	1
Died from pneumonia at twenty-nine years of age (bachelor)	1
Bartender in Chicago West Side saloon (married)	1
Street peddler in Chicago South Side (bachelor)	1
Not heard from since 1904; then a tramp	1

In Nineteen Years I am Discharged from Twenty-four Jobs.

From 1889 to 1908 I have been variously employed by different individuals, firms and corporations, in factories, yards, and offices. In this period of nineteen years I have held twenty-eight different jobs, and been discharged from twenty-four of them, mainly because I remained away from duty while under the influence of intoxicating liquors.

The character of my work ranged from shoveling snow for a week, at twenty cents an hour, to the chief clerkship of a railway office employing one hundred and twenty-five men.

In the saloons of the eighteen larger cities, in this period, liquor-drinking conditions were the same as in my own minority. Fifty per cent of the saloon drinkers were minors.

Respectable moderate drinkers cannot verify my estimate that fifty per cent of saloon drinkers are minors, at the onyx bars where they drink. To

get my percentages one must go all the way down the line, from the Pompeian Pool Room of the Chicago Auditorium Annex to the village bar-room with its pool-table. All saloons do not sell to the minor trade. The saloonkeeper decides his minor trade. Certain city saloons are so situated that they attract only business and professional men. To clarify my point, I know of a large saloon in Chicago, on La Salle Street, near the Board of Trade Building, that does not sell one per cent of its entire trade over the bar to minors; but on West Van Buren Street—a mile from the Loop district—I know of a saloon that one year ago sold to twelve minors whom I knew personally, and sixty per cent of its entire trade was to minors. Another saloon on West Madison Street sold ninety per cent to minors; it was known as a "kid joint," and shunned by adult drinkers.

I am Imprisoned for Drunkenness

The first time and every time I was arrested for drunkenness and put behind the bars like a caged animal, I lost self-respect, and became temporarily disheartened as to the prospect of ultimately freeing myself from alcoholic liquor slavery. Six of the seven times I was jailed I was discharged without being fined by the police judge. Six of the seven times I was jailed, I was working. I lost my job each time, not so much because of the notoriety as owing to the fact that I was temporarily too disheartened to do anything but continue drinking. I repeat, after being jailed for drunkenness, a drinker is never the same again. It brings either disheartenment or desperation.

$60,000 the Cost of my Slavery.

In 1889, at twenty-six years of age, I held an official railroad position scheduled on the payroll at two hundred dollars a month, good during good health and good behavior till the occupant was sixty years of age, and for a pension later. My public drunk lost me that position. The total of my wages received during the subsequent period of twenty years, according to my private personal ledgers, is $18,060. Subtracting this sum from the amount I would have received in the twenty years, had I kept my two-hundred-dollar job, I find that my loss in wages alone amounts to $29,940. The interest on this loss, and on my "saloon account," reckoned at four per cent, would be $14,686.28. Thus my total loss in money for the thirty years between January, 1878, and April, 1908, is $61,990.88. With this $61,990.88 in bank at four per cent, I should be in possession of an annual income of $2,479.63. It gives me pain to put down the figures.

The inexperienced and impressionable young man in a saloon village, town, or city does not get a square deal. My definition of a square deal is *no saloons*. If there are to be saloons, teaching the evils of alcoholic drink at school, home, and church ought to be discontinued. The youngster detects the inconsistency between preaching and practice. In my high school days I drank beer, while studying the effects of alcohol on the human body. I did not believe the text-books, for it seemed inconceivable, to my ignorance, that such poison as it was alleged to be should be licensed to be sold to one group of human being by another group of human beings.

Saloons must have fresh drinking boys every day, or they must go out of business for lack of patronage. The saloonkeeper cares nothing for the

ultimate effect on his customer of the goods purchased. A fresh drinking boy every day is necessary to make the saloon cash register ring musically in the saloon proprietor's ears. A saloonkeeper getting a fresh drinking boy every day is willing to let old liquor slaves fill graves, jails, pens, and asylums.

Every day that the saloons are open in saloon-licensing States, some saloonkeeper or bartender shoves across the bar a glass of cool, refreshing beer to a young man, and says, "You're big enough to drink beer now." Then there is started a fresh minor drinker, who can outdrink a relay of old-timers. If the fresh minor drinker is a boy leader, twenty more minors are started, and half the twenty become alcoholic liquor slaves.

Personally, as an alcoholic liquor slave, from whom eighteen hundred and sixty saloonkeepers took twenty-four good paying jobs during twenty years of my drinking life, I should like to see all saloons legislated out of existence, for the purpose of protecting the growing youth of our nation. Old slaves like myself soon pass out of the material world.

Temperance Department Aims

A TEMPERANCE DEPARTMENT IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STRIVES FOR THE FOLLOWING:

1. **Temperance Education**—Educates every Sunday School Member for:
   (a) Total Abstinence.
   (b) The Destruction of the Liquor Traffic.
   (c) The Extinction of the Cigarette Habit.
   (d) The Surrender of every Self-Indulgence which impairs or destroys the power to give service to God and service to man.

2. **Regular Time for Temperance Teaching**
   (a) Observe all appointed Quarterly Temperance Sundays.
   (b) (special) Anti-Cigarette Day,—Temperance Sunday of the Second Quarter.
   (c) (special) World's Temperance Sunday,—the fourth Sunday in November, to be emphasized as Christian Citizenship day.

3. **Organization**—A Temperance department in every Sunday School, conducted by a **Temperance Superintendent.**

4. **Pledge Signing**—Enroll every Sunday School Member of proper age as a pledge-signer.

PLEDGE CARDS

International Sunday School Association Temperance Pledge

That I may give my best service to God and to my Fellowmen,

I PROMISE GOD AND PLEDGE MYSELF

never to use Intoxicating Liquors as a drink and to do all I can to end the Drink Habit and the Liquor Traffic.

Signed.....

Date.....19.... Member of.....Sunday School

International Sunday School Association Anti-Cigarette Pledge

"THE GLORY OF YOUNG MEN IS THEIR STRENGTH"
"KEEP THYSELF PURE"

IN THE CAUSE OF
FREEDOM FROM ENSLAVING HABITS
FOR THE SAKE OF
STRENGTH AND PURITY OF CHARACTER

I PLEDGE MYSELF TO ABSTAIN FROM THE USE OF CIGARETTES
AND TO DO ALL I CAN TO END THE CIGARETTE-HABIT AMONG OTHERS

Signed.....

Date.....19.... Member of.....Sunday School

The "Temperance Department Aims" are printed on the back of our regular Temperance Round Table Leaflet, price ten cents per 100. The Pledge Cards are printed in two colors, price forty cents per 100 single, or fifty cents per 100 both printed on same card.

The price of this leaflet is sixty cents per 100—$6.00 per 1.000. On orders of 1000 or more we will place free of charge the imprint of your Association, on first page. These prices include postage. Address International Sunday School Association, Marion Lawrance, General Secretary, 805 Hartford Building, Chicago, Illinois.